The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

Recommended for grades 2 to 3

Summary: When the robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers she’s alone on a remote island. Having no idea how she got there or what her purpose is, she knows one thing: She needs to adapt to her surroundings in order to survive. As Roz begins to befriend the island’s animal residents, she starts to feel at home – until one day, her mysterious past comes back to haunt her.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Roz survive? Why is she so good at adapting?
2. The island’s animals call Roz “unnatural” and “a monster.” Why might they say this? How does Roz win them over? In what ways is it scary to be different? In what ways is it scary to meet someone who is different from you?
3. In the story, we learn robots “don’t really feel emotions,” but Roz feels something. What does she feel? How do Roz’s feelings compare with how animals and people experience emotions?
4. Why do the bears Nettle and Thorn attack Roz? Why does Roz save Thorn?
5. Thinking about her purpose in life, Roz says, “Perhaps I am simply meant to help others.” In what ways does Roz help others? How do the animals help Roz? How is asking for help an act of courage?
6. What does Roz mean when she thanks her friends and family for teaching her “how to live”?
7. What does the story suggest about the meaning of home?

Further Resources:

Learn about animals and ecosystems: https://dar.to/2PsHcNL

Activities

1. Think about a recent time when you felt a strong emotion and write about it. Was it a positive or negative emotion? How did you resolve the emotion? Was someone else involved in how you were feeling? When you think about that person, do you still associate them with the emotion you felt? In what ways?
2. Go for a hike with your family and/or friends! Pay close attention to your surroundings. Can you spot any animals? What kinds? Are there any animals that are particularly well-hidden? How have they adapted to their environment?